

(Mount Clipping in Space Below)

Jail Mate of King Suspect Gives Clue to Phony Names

By ALAN HORTON

I talked to a 31-year-old West Sider who, for four years, was in Missouri State Pen Cell 187.

James Earl Ray, the alleged assassin of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., was in Cell 191, some 10 feet from 187.

The West Sider is in trouble with the law again. That's how I found out about his connection with Missouri State Prison.

"I guess I knew Jimmy Ray as well as any man," the West Sider said between drags on a smoke. "I rented him books in prison. One of the books he got from me was Ian Fleming's 'On Her Majesty's Secret Service.'

"In that, Ernst Stavro Blofeld was the head of SPECTRE. I also rented him Agn Rand's 'Atlas Shrugged.' John Galt is in that."

IS IT COINCIDENCE that Ray used the alias Eric Stavro Galt to throw the FBI off his trail?

(Indicate page, name of newspaper, city and state.)

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"We each worked in the food service in prison," the West Sider continued. "I was the second cook. He was responsible for slicing bread for each meal. He had a pass to the kitchen anytime. We were thrown together. I got to know him real well.

"I had 200 or 300 books in my cell. I sold and rented them. Mostly he read sex stories and I kept him supplied. And he read that Prussian philosopher, Friedrich Nietzsche. He believed in Nietzsche's superman. Might makes right, he said, and nothing is wrong as long as there's satisfaction for the inner man.

"THE WHOLE PRISON was segregated. He was one of those who thought Negroes should be kept separated.

"He was the original lone wolf. But no matter what you talked about or where you'd been, he knew it or he'd been there. He had a little funny smile always—like the Mona Lisa.

"He was very introverted and personally clean. He said he didn't have any people but he got mail once in a while. He worked three hours a day and the rest of the time he read or hung by himself in the prison yard.

"He was addicted mentally to stimulants, amphetamines — not the pills but the powder. He got it the way you get anything you're not supposed to get in prison and he injected it.

"BECAUSE OF THIS, he didn't eat — no appetite — and he was thin, about 150 pounds. I know he was a paranoid. Never mind what the prison psychiatrist said.

"His eyes were weaker than the ones in the FBI photo. Kind of foggy. He was always pulling on his big left ear with his left hand. Like he was nervous all the time. He had a high-pitched voice but he was very even-tempered. He was smart and cool and he didn't trust anybody."

RAY, THE ADMIRER OF SUPERMEN, may have been friendly to the West Sider because of his muscular appearance. He is nearly 6 feet tall and weighs 240 pounds.

One year ago today 40-year-old James Earl Ray escaped from the Missouri prison in a bread box. He had been serving a 20-year sentence on habitual criminal and armed robbery charges.

The West Sider is out on bond on a carrying concealed weapon charge. He told the FBI what he knows about Ray.